



**Friends of Fish  
Creek Provincial  
Park Society**

**Annual  
Report 2025**

**50 years of  
Fish Creek Provincial Park  
1975 and beyond**

# Introduction

Board Chair - David Mitchell

Executive Director - Katrina Terrill



2025 saw a strong community and science focus for the Friends. This year's Annual Report celebrates many meaningful achievements, including organizing a highly successful celebration of the 50th anniversary of Fish Creek Provincial Park, a 50% increase in community members and partners engaged, and planning for a strong future.

This past year, the Friends invested in community building and education through the hiring of a full-time Communications Coordinator Claire Prokopenko, as well as bringing on Sarah Wutkze on a one-year contract as Education/Outreach Coordinator to expand our Learning Naturally and other education programs.

We also invested significant amounts of time into relationship building, which has already paid off through large increases in in-kind contributions and improved grant funding compared to 2024.

A sincere thank you goes out to everyone who supported the organization this year. Whether you are a donor, sponsor, partner, volunteer, member or staff, you make our work possible.

Through your contributions, the Friends will continue to be here to conserve Fish Creek Provincial Park and support this truly unique urban park for many more decades to come. We hope you enjoy reading this 2025 Annual Report.

*Mitchell*      *Katrina Terrill*



Grasslands volunteer orientation



Another successful plant rescue



Removing burdock in the park



Mallard Point Pop-up Visitor Centre

# Executive Director's Report

Katrina Terrill



Fish Creek Provincial Park  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event

2025 was an incredible whirlwind of a year that saw the Friends take on a central role in bringing our community together during a milestone celebration - the 50th anniversary of Fish Creek Provincial Park! This event was managed by Visitor Experiences Coordinator Kumiko Kamiike, and saw over 35 community partners and more than 2,000 visitors join us on June 7th to celebrate this cherished park we all

know and love. From its original inception as a park on the edge of the city to having over 350,000 neighbours in the communities bordering the park, Fish Creek Provincial Park continues to be an oasis for people, plants and wildlife here in Calgary. We here at the Friends are dedicated to ensuring that the park remains an accessible and ecologically sustainable destination for Calgarians, Albertans, and visitors from across Canada and beyond for many more years to come.

To aid in our mission, the Friends ecology team (under the leadership of Ecology Manager Emma Stroud and Restoration Team Lead Ross Anderson) undertook several major projects in 2025. One of these projects was to coordinate the first fish inventory for Fish Creek since 1993! With the support of Alberta Parks, the Alberta Conservation Association, and partners at the Fish Creek Watershed Association, Tsuut'ina Nation, and Freshwater Conservation Canada, we were able to survey the entire length of Fish Creek from the confluence with the Bow up into the headwaters.

Understanding the fish populations in the park will help us, Alberta Parks, and many other stakeholders in identifying threats and prioritizing areas of work to ensure the creek and its' residents continue to thrive. You can read more about this project on page 5.

In addition to new projects, we also expanded existing work with some truly incredible partnerships. With the help of the Alberta Native Plant Rescue Foundation, we were able to triple the number of mature salvaged plants brought into the park in 2025 compared to 2024. Over 90,000 plants from over 80 species were rescued and planted, which added an approximate \$674,000 in value to Fish Creek Provincial Park. Thanks to a grant from the Calgary Foundation, we were also able to invest in a full-time Education and Outreach Coordinator, who has been able to offer more Learning Naturally programs while also working with Alberta Parks to develop more free educational programming, as well as a new summer day camp program which will help fund the Learning Naturally expansion once the Calgary Foundation funding has finished.

It is thanks to our incredible staff, partners, donors, and volunteers that all this is possible. With such support behind us and the growing momentum we are already seeing in 2026, the Friends of Fish Creek will continue to bring our community together through our shared love and stewardship of this park we all cherish. Thank you!



Fish Creek at  
Glennfield Day Use

# Board Chair's Report

David Mitchell



I'd like to highlight some of our administrative accomplishments from the past year. In 2025, we transitioned from traditional accounting to an operational accounting system that strengthens decision-making, reporting, and our capacity to grow. Compared to the many achievements Katrina describes in her report, these improvements may seem less exciting—but they are the kinds of changes that energize board members, auditors, and our funding partners alike.

We started off 2025 with a detailed strategic planning session with all board members and full-time staff. Our team identified three key areas to concentrate on improving for 2025-2028: diversified and reliable funding, community and human resources, and modernized processes and infrastructure. What may appear as a simple line item—upgrading internal processes—is, in reality, a significant undertaking that affects all areas of the organization. It became clear during our session that our supporting systems and processes would need to be redesigned to achieve many of our objectives across multiple key areas.

Over the past year, we have re-engineered most of our internal processes. These improvements included streamlining administrative work, strengthening reporting, and providing more robust operational accounting data, including enhanced revenue and expenditure analysis.



*Sharing wildlife monitoring stats at Star Night 2025*

Just as importantly, they give us the capacity to take on new funding partners without having to reinvent how we report back to them. Taken together, these improvements have positioned the Friends as a more sophisticated and capable organization.

I would like to specifically recognize Ruza Obad for her contributions. In addition to a very demanding CFO role (her day job!), she found the time to guide us through many of the changes needed to transform our accounting system.

I also want to recognize Katrina. She identified that while our existing processes were financially sound, they needed to evolve to support where we want the organization to go. And she was the chief implementor of the new processes.

We are not all the way there yet, but I am very impressed with the progress made to date.



*Glennfield Trails*

# 2025 Friends Team



Everything we did in 2025 wouldn't have been possible without our incredible team of staff, board members, and contractors. Here are just a few of the amazing individuals who contributed to our success this year!

## 2025 Friends Staff

- Katrina Terrill**  
Executive Director
- Emma Stroud**  
Ecology Manager
- Kumiko Kamiike**  
Visitor Experiences Coordinator
- Ross Anderson**  
Watershed Field Coordinator
- Claire Prokopenko**  
Communications Coordinator
- Sarah Wutzke**  
Outreach and Education Coordinator

## 2025 Staff (past)

- Dylan Barnes**
- John Timonera**
- Oliver Noseworthy**

## 2025 Summer Staff

- Joshua Gibbs**
- Justin Poon**
- Nora McCluskey**

## 2025 Executive

- Bob Morrin**  
Chair
- David Mitchell**  
Vice-Chair
- Ruža Obad**  
Treasurer
- Kari Horn**  
Secretary
- Neil Groenveld**  
Director at Large
- Ken Heywood**  
Director at Large
- Pam Nemeth**  
Director at Large
- Roy McKnight**  
Director at Large
- Brad Drebit**  
Director at Large
- Nancy Ouimet**  
Park Liaison

## 2025 Executive (past)

- Christina Steed**  
Director at Large
- Anna Blaxley**  
Director at Large
- David Thompson**  
Director at Large

## 2025 Contractors

- Elizabeth Wood**  
Bookkeeper



Community Engagement on Giving Tuesday



ParkWatch days at Shannon Terrace



Seed processing on Giving Tuesday



Beaver coexistence program



Park Watch stewards at Fish Creek's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration

# An Ecological Focus

Ecology Manager - Emma Stroud



White Heath Aster  
(*Symphotrichum ericoides*)

In 2025, we prioritized the conservation of grasslands through plant salvages more than ever. Preparation for the Listen Garden project went into high gear, and with it came a target list of 40 species of native seed totaling 40 kilograms. In case anyone thought otherwise, native seeds are extremely tiny and lightweight, with species ranging from 400-16,000 seeds/gram. That's millions of seeds we needed for the Listen Garden!

By the end of the season we had collected 10 kg from 45 species with the Alberta Native Plant Rescue Foundation, and are supplementing our required seed quantities by purchasing from native seed suppliers, growing our own seed plugs, and using salvaged plant plugs.

Adding to this feat was salvaging a whopping 90,646 native plants from construction sites! We also harvested over 2,500 native willow cuttings and staked them into the banks of Fish Creek in the Bow Valley Ranch.

On the aquatics side, we executed an important fisheries inventory on the Fish Creek Watershed, from the headwaters in the McLean Creek Public Land Use Zone to the confluence with the Bow River. This project, which as the first watershed-scale Fish Inventory in Fish Creek in over 30 years, wouldn't have been possible without the collaboration of our partners Freshwater Conservation Canada, Fish Creek Watershed Association, Alberta Wilderness Association, and the Tsuut'ina Nation.

We also completed spring rainbow trout and fall brown trout surveys, reinforcing the trend of Fish Creek Provincial Park being important spawning habitat for introduced trout species, as well as for native fish including plains, white, and longnose suckers.



2025 Fish Creek Fish Inventory

We're looking forward to the 2026 field season and the opportunities it brings to continue to diversify and restore the grasslands and engage the public on what restoration means for the park.

**307**  
bags of  
litter removed

**450 m<sup>2</sup>**  
of grasslands  
restored

**90,496**  
Plants salvaged  
& transplanted

**1,000**  
Trees wrapped  
or unwrapped

**8,303**  
KG  
of invasive  
plants removed

**50 m<sup>2</sup>**  
of streambank  
restored

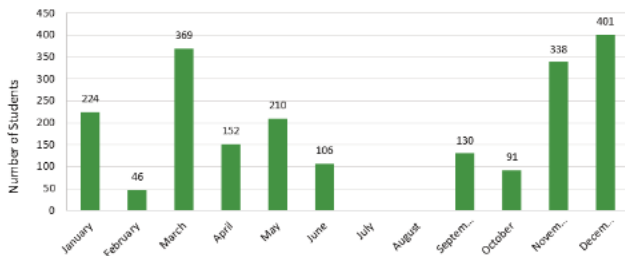
# The Learning Naturally Program

Education & Outreach Coordinator - Sarah Wutzke



Learning Naturally is an outdoor education program that immerses students in the wonders of the natural world and the importance of environmental conservation. Through a day of self-guided exploration in the Shannon Terrace Day Use Area, students engage in science and environmental learning experiences designed by Alberta Parks and facilitated by the Friends of Fish Creek.

The program supports equitable access to outdoor education by reducing financial barriers for schools visiting Fish Creek Provincial Park. Learning Naturally is fully subsidized for schools within the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) and Calgary Catholic School District (CCSD) Equity Indexes. All program costs, including program fees and one bus per day, are covered through generous donations from various supporters, including the Greenfield Foundation, Rogers Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink, the Calgary Foundation, and individual donors.



Learning Naturally Participants by Month

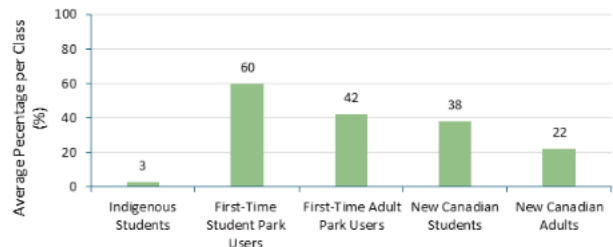
In 2025, Learning Naturally delivered 43 curriculum-connected field trips, engaging 2,067 students (Kindergarten to Grade 6), 110 teachers, and 306 parent volunteers from 30 schools. While the total number of programs declined compared to 2024 due to staff transitions and the Alberta Teachers' Association strike, the program achieved greater impact per day, with a median of 49 students per program, up from 43.5 in 2024.

Many participating classes included a high proportion of first-time park visitors (often 75–100% of students per class), as well as Indigenous learners and new Canadians, reinforcing the role of Learning Naturally in reducing barriers to nature-based education.



Students on their way to nature-based learning!

Teacher evaluation feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Program participants highlighted strong curriculum alignment, engaging learning experiences, and clear booking and preparation processes. Suggested improvements included simplifying student booklets, clarifying optional materials, enhancing trail signage, and adding more active games for younger grades; all elements managed by Alberta Parks.



Average demographic composition per participating class

Learning Naturally continues to be a highly valued program that connects students to nature, fosters environmental stewardship, and supports Alberta curriculum outcomes in an inclusive and meaningful way.

Through 2026, we hope to achieve our goal of bringing free nature learning to more Calgary children by running 100 program days as well as securing a title sponsor for program expansion.

# A year of volunteering in review

Visitor Experience Coordinator - Rumiko Kamiike



Pop-up visitor centre at Shannon Terrace

2025 was an exceptional year for community engagement, exceeding our expectations. Our largest event, the Fish Creek 50th Anniversary, brought together 55 volunteers who contributed 487 hours to deliver a successful one-day celebration, engaging over 2,000 visitors. In the fall, we also brought back Star Night, welcoming around 200 participants despite rainy weather.

We continued the Good Grief program throughout the year, offering meaningful opportunities for connection and healing across all four seasons. Our Visitor Centre Ambassadors supported over 3,100 park visitors.

Our birding program thrived, with 53 volunteer leaders contributing over 4,200 hours and connecting approximately 700 participants with nature.

In addition, about 160 volunteers contributed more than 5,000 hours of fieldwork in Fish Creek. Their efforts included removing invasive plants, restoring native habitats, monitoring wildlife and water quality, and supporting ongoing stewardship initiatives.

While we cannot name all programs or recognize every individual contribution, we are deeply grateful for the time, energy, and dedication of all our volunteers. Their efforts are essential to advancing our mission.



## 2025 Volunteer Award Winners

### *Kingfisher*

Bernie Diebolt  
Robert Worona

### *Trailblazer*

Annette Ng

### *Staff Choice*

Jennifer Hung

### *Community Champion*

Dennis Burns  
Jennifer Solem

### *Flintknapper*

Chris Brown

### *Steward in Action*

Grace Bristo

### *New & Noteworthy*

Jacob Nguyen  
Ronald Nguyen

### *Grassland Superstar*

Tuyen Van

### *Unsung Hero*

Judy Shandro  
Ron Shandro

### *Volunteer of the Year*

Gerhard Maier

### *Spark!*

Tim Curren

### *Board of Directors*

Neil Groeneveld

### *1,000 Hours Club*

Bob Morrin  
Ruth Diaz

# Capture Nature Photo Contest 2025

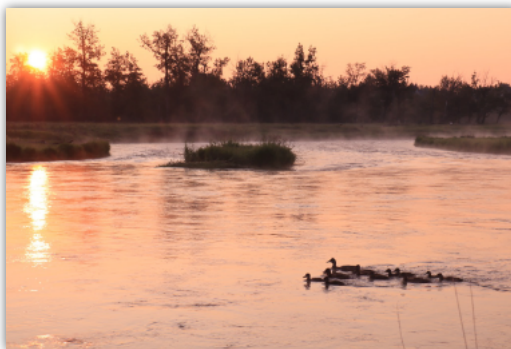


Thank you to everyone who submitted photos or took the time to vote in 2025's Capture Nature Contest. We had a great time seeing all the submissions come through and we were pleased to have selected this group of photos as last year's winners. We received over fifty submissions in all categories and choosing the winners was a difficult task for our judges.

This year, we're taking a break to re-imagine the Capture Nature contest to bring it back strong with even more public reach in future years. Until then, enjoy these winning photos from 2025's contest in the Youth and Adult categories.



*Adult - Wildlife*  
Jazmin Ortiz Franco



*Youth - Wildlife*  
Colin Fair



*Adult - Landscape*  
Amy Thompson



*Adult - Wildlife*  
Cathy Brodner



*Adult - Wildlife*  
Brennan Gibson



*Youth - Landscape*  
Sebastian Ramirez Ibarra

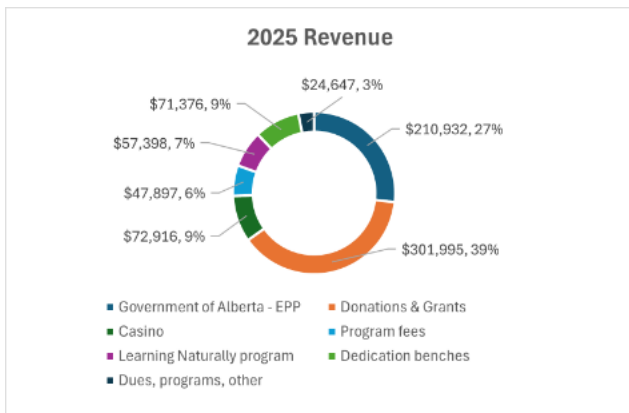
# Treasurer's Report

Ruza Obad



For the year ended December 31, 2025, the Friends reported a net loss (excess of expenditures over revenue) of \$31,087, a significant improvement from the \$164,636 loss in 2024. This reflects both modest revenue growth and improved cost management, with the organization meeting its 2025 objective of tighter spending control.

Total revenue for 2025 was \$787,161, representing a 7% increase over 2024. Results were mixed across revenue streams, with strong growth in grants, dedication benches, and other program-related income, offset by lower revenue realized from the Government of Alberta EPP program.



Total expenses for 2025 were \$818,248, a 9% decrease from 2024. This reduction was driven primarily by lower administrative costs (-39%) and reduced spending on dedication benches (-23%), partially offset by increased investment in salaries and benefits.

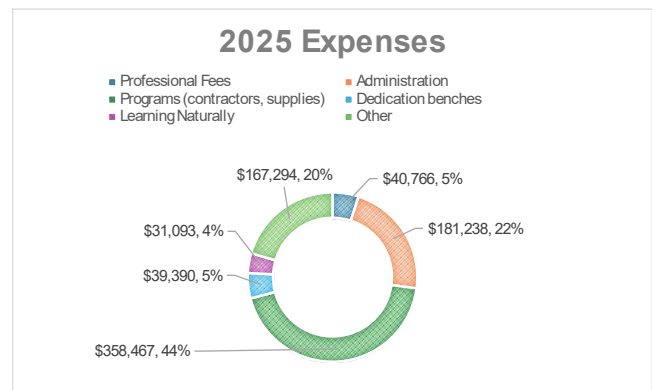
The organization's cash position on December 31, 2025, was \$286,154 compared to \$311,958 in the prior year.

Internal controls were key to financial results. The Executive Director ensured accurate and timely completion of account and grant reconciliations.



Planting native species at the Southwood Community Garden

The Bookkeeper provided up-to-date financial reports that allowed the Finance Committee to consistently monitor results. The Finance Committee met at least monthly to review financial performance.



The 2026 plan reflects a continued disciplined approach to financial management. The Friends are grateful to the Alberta government for its continued support of our activities and mission.



Creekwatch citizen science program

# Donor Appreciation

Thank you to our donors and funders for being such a big part of making all of 2025's successes possible. We're looking forward to exploring what 2026 has to bring with you!



# Program collaborators

Our programming is a huge part of who we are and what we do—our thanks goes out to all the organizations who worked with us to bring these programs to life, helping spread awareness and educate the public.



# Thank you to our 2025 volunteers!

Al Schoenberg  
Alan Cross  
Alanna Wall  
Alexandria Campbell  
Allan Thacker  
Amrit Begol  
Andrea Boehm  
Andrew Her  
Angel Spasoff  
Angela Ovens  
Angela van Son  
Anifa Hibbard  
Anna Semenoff  
Annalise Habedus  
Annette Ng  
Annie Finch  
Athena Kardynal  
Barbara Dodd-Jones  
Bernie Diebolt  
Bianca Sinclair  
Bill Skinner  
Blake McNeill  
Bob Byers  
Bob Leonhardt  
Bob Morrin  
Bones Whittaker  
Brennan Tait  
Brent Murphy  
Brian Farewell  
Brian Shaw  
Bruce Mitchell  
Caelyn Coe  
Calista Brown  
Camille Orendain  
Carole Steeves  
Caroline Jasper  
Casey Metheral  
Catherine Huerta  
Velasquez  
Cathy Cush  
Chalise Kemp  
Charis Falardeau  
Chelsea Kate Deloria  
Chris Brown  
Chris Howe  
Chris Meade  
Chris Tulloch  
Christian Cox  
Christina Arnold  
Citrus Yao  
Claire McCluskey  
Clerissa Jak  
Clerissa Jakubowski  
Cody Will  
Coline Dirkse  
Colleen Rodgers  
Dale Weisenberg  
Darrell Aunger  
Darren King  
Dave Fletcher

David Arnott  
David Martin  
David Mitchell  
David Pethrick  
Dean McCluskey  
Debbie Fournier  
Dennis Burns  
Derek Hazel  
Dermot Lane  
Diana Leon  
Diane Fournier  
Diane Haggarty  
Diane Stinson  
Dianne Allen  
Dianne Leonhardt  
Don Hladiuk  
Donna Franke  
Doreen Smale  
Doug Maxwell  
Drew Marr  
Dwayne Thomas  
Edward Knowles  
Elnaz Gholizadeh  
Elspeth Wilman  
Emily Willems  
Emma Chong  
Emma Rose  
Eric Le  
Errin Page  
Ethan Poon  
Eunseob Kim  
Evan Malcolm  
Fangru Zhao  
Frank Letniowski  
Fred Bowen  
Gail Goldsmith  
Gail MacDonald  
Garrett Newell  
Gavin McKinnon  
Gem Gallagher  
Geoff Perlin  
Gerhard Maier  
Gloria Wang  
Gordon Huffon  
Grace Bristo  
Grace Zhang  
Graciela Mason  
Grant Gale  
Heather Hedges  
Heather Maynard  
Jackson Ruttle  
Jacob Nguyen  
Jacqui Mignault  
Jake Brown  
James Carlyle  
James Stroud  
Janice Ahlstrom  
Janice Wenarchuk  
Jasmine Parhar  
Jay Boehm

Jean Channon-  
Simpson  
Jen Hung  
Jenna Zanella  
Jennifer Meredith  
Jennifer Solem  
Jenny Radsma  
Jeremiah Lowe  
Jerry Knight  
Jill Macaskill  
Joan Barrett  
JoAnn Reynolds  
Jo-Anne Bechtel  
Joanne Hatch  
Joe Gerritsen  
John Anderson  
John Dunfield  
John Jerse \*  
John Kimber  
John McCre  
John Thompson  
Josh Gibbs  
Joyce Ritsco  
Jozsef Szocs  
Judy Shandro  
Jules Brand (N)  
Julia Marr  
Julie Aunger  
Julien Renou  
Justin Poon  
Justine Doll  
Kai Chun Au  
Kara Rosenquist  
Karen Chrapko  
Karen Ratliffe  
Karen Sloan-Beitzel  
Kari Horn  
Kate Hanna  
Kate Macpherson  
Katelyn Troke  
Kathy Chappell  
Kathy McLaughlin  
Kathy Seaman  
Katie Bley  
Keely Turple  
Ken Heywood  
Ken Rossi  
Kit Milkert  
Lara Fitzpatrick  
Laura Parsons  
Leao Vermeylen  
Leeanne Champion  
Lesley Turner  
Liana McCreadie  
Lidia Wodynski  
Lilah Grant  
Linda Gale  
Linda Meade  
Lisa McCluskey  
Liz Soria

Logan Magowan  
Logan Redondo  
Lorrie Anderson  
Lynda Rive  
Maddy Skinner  
Magdalena Beldor  
Marco van Son  
Marg Watt  
Margaret Moule  
Margie Seto  
Marianne Hladiuk  
Marianne van Doorn  
Martin Jalkotzy  
Melinda Bell  
Melinda Felso  
Merardo Porras  
Michael Collings  
Michele Moore  
Veldhoen  
Micheline Deschenes  
Mike Lyons  
Mike Meredith  
Mike Moss  
Morgan Potter  
Morris Baskett  
Nadja Werries  
Nancy Truong  
Naoko Tomioka  
Natalia Roubaud  
Natalie Masuda  
Natasha Gidluck  
Neil Groeneveld  
Nicole Bonnar  
Nora McCluskey  
Oliver Noseworthy  
Olivia Laing  
Pam Chorley  
Pam Nemeth  
Pamela Cross  
Pamela Hardy  
Patricia Lee  
Patrick Bulman  
Paul Rydl  
Peter Haggarty  
Peter Leigh  
Peter Nielsen  
Phil Greer  
Quetzi Guijosa  
Randy Plishka  
Rasika Weeratunga  
Reagan Herd  
Rebecca Spurr  
Renee Beaton  
Rick Miller  
Rick Schmidt  
Robert Bakker  
Robert Beitzel  
Robert Brown  
Robert Worona  
Ron Deshayes

Ron Shandro  
Ronald Nguyen  
Rose Duhaime  
Rose Ratliffe  
Roy McKnight  
Ruby Le  
Ruth Diaz  
Ruth Kozun  
Ruth Obad  
Sandie Melvin  
Sandy Davis  
Shane Grant  
Shannon Fernandes  
Sheila Clark  
Shelley Kostyk  
Shelley MacLellan  
Sheryl Faminow  
Sonya Jakubec  
Sophia Olstad  
Stacey Eklund  
Stephanie Bates  
Stephanie Won  
Stephen Boucher  
Stephen Hyde  
Stephen Phelps  
Stuart Simpson  
Sue Mitchell  
Sura Al-Saket  
Susan Gallup  
Susan Lewis  
Susan Wilson  
Tevd Sutton  
Teresa Brown  
Terry Portelance  
Terryne Levine  
Tim Curren  
Tod Gilmore  
Tom Sullivan  
Tomofumi Kamiike  
Trevor Churchill  
Tuyen Van  
Verna Bateson  
Victoria Bohm  
Walter DiMattia  
Walter Pedersen  
Ward Sanderson  
Wendy Nickson  
Will Ratliffe  
Wlad Franco-Valias  
Xinwu Liu  
Yusuf Aboud CS  
Zachariah Receveur  
Zachary Lavigne  
Zdenka Servus



Provincial Park Society

[www.friendsoffishcreek.org](http://www.friendsoffishcreek.org)

